GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1796
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004
VOTERS IDENTITY CARD
Bansal Shri Pawan Kumar

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any progress in providing Voters Identity Cards by the Election Commission during the last three years;

(b) the percentage of electorate provided Identity Cards by the Election Commission so far, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the total cost incurred thereon;

(d) the time by when all the voters are likely to be provided such cards and its use made mandatory for casting one`s vote at an election; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove discrepancies noted so far in preparation of such cards and their reflection in the electoral rolls?;

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission has informed that there has been considerable progress in providing in Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) during the last three years. Approximately 7 crore electors have been provided EPIC during the last three years;

(b) A statement showing State/Union Territory-wise percentage of electorate in the 2004 roll provided with EPIC is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The expenditure on preparation of EPIC is shared between the Central and the State Goverments on 50:50 basis. A sum of Rs.526,53,13,000/- has been released to the State Governments as the Government of India`s share of the expenditure on the issuance of electors photo identity cards.

(d) The Election Commission has stated that the registration of electors is a continuous process, excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of election process. Therefore, the scheme of issue of EPIC to the registered electors is necessarily a continuous process as every new elector will also have to be covered by the scheme. The Commission has outlined steps to complete issue of EPIC in two phases. It has fixed a threshold limit of 85% coverage in the first phase during which field campaigns for extensive coverage of electors included in the existing roll are launched. The campaign is taken up using a targeted approach. Parts of electoral roll of a constituency representing groups of small villages or parts representing the same village in case of large village or localities in urban areas are clubbed together for the purpose of this analysis. Locations - called Designated Photography Locations (DPL) - are identified where the residual electors can be photographed in such a manner that a team of persons is able to cover them in a specified period of time. This campaign mode is continued till the threshold level of 85% of total electors is achieved.

In the second phase, those of the States/Union territories, who attain the threshold target of 85% will go in to the Maintenance Mode to issue EPIC to residual electors. In this mode permanent DPL centers are provided at the district/sub-divisional headquarters. The electors who have either been left out for any reason or those electors who are added to the roll later on are required to go to these DPLs to get their cards prepared.

It is the endeavour of the Commission to achieve the target of issuing the EPICs to all the electors enrolled in the electoral roll being revised w.r.t. 01-01-2005 as the qualifying date by the end of year 2005.

The Commission is continuously emphasizing on use of EPIC in all elections. However, as the use of EPIC for the purpose of voting is still not a well-settled drill, the Commission, as a matter of abundant caution have been permitting the electors who could not get/preserve their EPICs for some reasons, to vote at elections provided their identity is otherwise established by production of one of the alternative documents prescribed by the Commission.

(e) The Election Commission has informed that the scheme of EPIC was introduced in 1993 independent of electoral rolls. The EPIC details were not captured in the electoral roll. Some of the difficulties encountered were genuine as this was a completely new scheme in the implementation of which a variety of technical issues had to be addressed. The Computerisation of Electoral Rolls Programme in 1997 created the basic ground conditions through which integration of EPIC with the electoral rolls became possible. Accordingly, the Commission issued revised guidelines in May 2000 for EPIC programme detailing technical specifications and implementation

strategy that envisaged its full and complete integration with the programme of Computerisation of electoral rolls. Thereafter, intensive revision of electoral rolls has been undertaken in 2002 and 2003 in all States/Union territories, except Jammu & Kashmir and the North-Eastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura to update the rolls as well as to capture the EPIC number in the electoral roll to synchronize the electoral database with that of EPIC. The Enumerators visited every house and collected the names of all eligible persons and also the EPIC number of the persons already possessing such cards. The same strategy is being followed during the current intensive revision of electoral rolls w.r.t. 01-01-2005 as the qualifying date in the North Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir. Statement referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1796 for 10.12.2004

Statement referred to part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1796 for answer on 10.12.2004

Status for the progress of Elector`s Photo Identity Card

Sl.No.	State/U.Ts	Total Electors w.r.t. 01-01-2004 roll (General)	Total Electors w.r.t. 01-01-2004 roll (Service)#	Grand Total Electors issued with Defect-free Identity Cards (Column 3 & 6)	Grand Total Electors issued	% of EPIC
1	Andhra Pradesh	51,001,479	28,554	51,030,033	39,395,792	77.24
2	Arunachal Pradesh	624,086	736	624,822	304,822	48.84
3	Assam	14,995,084	19,232	15,014,316	67,479	0.45
4	Bihar	50,532,795	32,277	50,565,072	26,057,808	51.57
5	Chhattisgarh	13,691,885	4,392	13,696,277	9,620,499	70.26
6	Goa	940,468	649	941,117	764,837	81.33
7	Gujarat	33,597,068	11,344	33,608,412	24,807,957	73.84
8	Haryana	12,257,580	62,991	12,320,571	11,187,854	91.27
9	Himachal Pradesh	4,127,440	45,609	4,173,049	3,053,116	73.97
10	Jammu & Kashmir	6,345,696	31,176	6,376,872	3,198,936	50.41
11	Jharkhand	16,799,443	4,995	16,804,438	8,380,610	49.89
12	Karnataka	38,432,800	27,095	38,459,895	30,766,798	80.05
13	Kerala	20,822,140	40,543	20,862,683	20,817,124	99.98
14	Madhya Pradesh	38,386,651	17,866	38,404,517	27,254,099	71.00
15	Maharashtra	62,667,450	75,597	62,743,047	44,455,999	70.94
16	Manipur	1,532,628	3,880	1,536,508	2,841	0.19
17	Meghalaya	1,299,419	1,170	1,300,589	1,033,575	79.54
18	Mizoram	548,544	1,401	549,945	405,785	73.97
19	Nagaland	1,040,347	1,398	1,041,745	723,749	69.57
20	Orissa	25,629,772	21,787	25,651,559	20,790,801	81.12
21	Punjab	16,568,709	43,635	16,612,344	11,661,495	70.38
22	Rajasthan	34,629,341	71,988	34,701,329	26,900,347	77.68
23	Sikkim	279,540	282	279,822	220,297	78.81
24	Tamil Nadu	47,064,103	43,075	47,107,178	35,026,156	74.42
25	Tripura	1,977,115	1,388	1,978,503	1,610,496	81.46
26	Uttar Pradesh	110,284,179	83,069	110,367,248	63,895,986	57.94
27	Uttaranchal	5,462,502	55,387	5,517,889	3,828,062	70.08
28	West Bengal	47,433,587	37,048	47,470,635	40,862,587	86.15
29	A & N Islands	241,159	292	241,451	210,714	87.38
30	Chandigarh	506,208	1,438	507,646	330,218	65.23
31	D & N Haveli	122,664	17	122,681	83,615	68.17
32	Daman & Diu	79,041	10	79,051	59,847	75.72
33	Lakshadweep	38,990	43	39,033	35,564	91.21
34	NCT of Delhi	8,748,816	4,840	8,753,656	5,699,482	65.15
35	Pondicherry	636,022	265	636,287	636,022	100.00
Total:		669,344,751	775,469	670,120,220	464,151,369	69.34

Service electors means a member of the Armed Forces of the Union, a member of the Armed Police Force of a State, and serving outside that State or employed under the Govt. of India in a post outside India.